

5-7-1823

Letter from Henry Wilkins to James B. Finley

Henry Wilkins

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Take of Bark ^{galls} 103
 Snake Root 1/2 oz
 Calamus (encloves) 1/4 oz
 cloves 1/8 oz

4 oz Strong Spirit
 one Battle Lishon were let them
 draw by the fire & sun for a week
 or put them up two months before hand

good yellow Willow Bark & Snake root are the best substitutes
 for peruvian Bark — Peruvian Bark is good in
 proportion to its giving out its virtues & make the best
 will draw as easy as Tea the most require more boiling
 than an old Ham — Yours &c Henry Williams

Rev. J. W. Furley

Wyandot Mission

Ohio

Post
 Jenkins
 1823
 May 1



Dear
 you spent an evening at my little cottage with B. McPondree
 at the last Genl Conference and I hope to have the same pleasure
 the next one. The Bishop left my house for Pittsburgh this day
 with Mr. Tidings and in pretty good spirits and health
 He means to move on for your Quarters to be there in
 August at any rate. He bid you to tell you so.
 He did not go on to Phil & New York Conf. he found the
 tide of Revolution so evident here that ~~he~~ a visit to the
 deeper waters would be a mere presentation of himself and
 not worth the labor of the journey much less the anxiety
 of mind (nothing new worth seeking) it would produce.
 I am sure that if one step is taken another will
 follow and the People will choose for themselves
 If one overseer is grievous to the preachers ten must
 be to the people. a negro could readily solve the question
 whether one overseer or Ten would be the most
 oppressive — But you will hear enough of this
 unprofitable dispute. I wish to address you on
 another subject which I am afraid will give you
 some trouble. It is this — 1 Do the Wyandots use any
 medicines? 2 What are they — 3 Do they prescribe them
 with any regularity as to time 4. What are their diseases
 5 How they came to the knowledge of ^{medicine} ~~them~~, whether from their
 own ancestry or from the Europeans — I wish you
 to bring me a flower (just blown) and two or three leaves

of any plant (not known generally) that may seem
to be effectual in curing. These must be put
between the leaves of an old Book pressed and changed
in 5 days to another place in the Book they will
there dry sufficiently to be put up in a little paper
and kept in a packet Book - I am an unbelieve in
any powerful remedies among them - our Physicians
have declined quoting ^{the Indians} Indian medicines in proportion
as we gain a knowledge that should increase it - and
the Quacks are now imposing greatly on the public
in the way the Physicians opened for them - I wish to
put it down as much as possible and you and I
think will enable me and do a lasting benefit to
the sufferers by these impostors - I shall be under
great obligations to you and so will the Med. world
for if they ^(the world) have any good medicines we want them
in a direct line so that they may be well known
and not administered in a concealed manner -

I know that a flat Country bordering on lakes must
be to you and all newcomers especially a sickly land
Intermittents and Remittants must be there - I was
unfortunately brought up in a land of Fevers I will
give you my plans - prevention is better than cure
and not above everything. Keep fires in the Evening
when they can be born without inconvenience

In all the sickly season take Bark or bitters daily and
occasional purges of calomel & Jalap by this plan I kept a
family in a place 5 years without a fever at a place that
was abandoned for its sickness - For Intermittents if
in the Spring and with cough or pain bleed once take
an Emetic then good Bark. if it returns take a painful
dose of Calomel & Jalap and at the Bark again. if it returns
take another Emetic, take the Bark and apply Blister to
the wrists - This will be effectual - In remittants
if in a stout habit and there are much pain in
the Back or cough or if the remissions are trifling
Bleeding may be performed twice at least for the
large Glands & Pancreas are generally inflamed - take
the calomel & Jalap one day next day fever powder
consisting of $\frac{1}{2}$ grain of Tartar & 5 grains nitre every
two hours - next day Castor oil - next day fever powder
next day calomel - then begin to Blister the right
side and then the angles - Emetics of Ipecac
may then and at first be used if the Stomach
is much loaded - Virginia Snake Root and
Decoctions of Bark are sufficient when there is
a clear remission to check the returns especially
if the Blisters are then running - If your time
this will you will seldom fail - I will close by giving
you a good prescription for Bitters do not
hesitate